

## Political Cartoon Analysis

Analyze the following cartoons and answer the questions.

Title: Freedom's immortal triumph! Finale of the Jeff Davis Die-Nasty

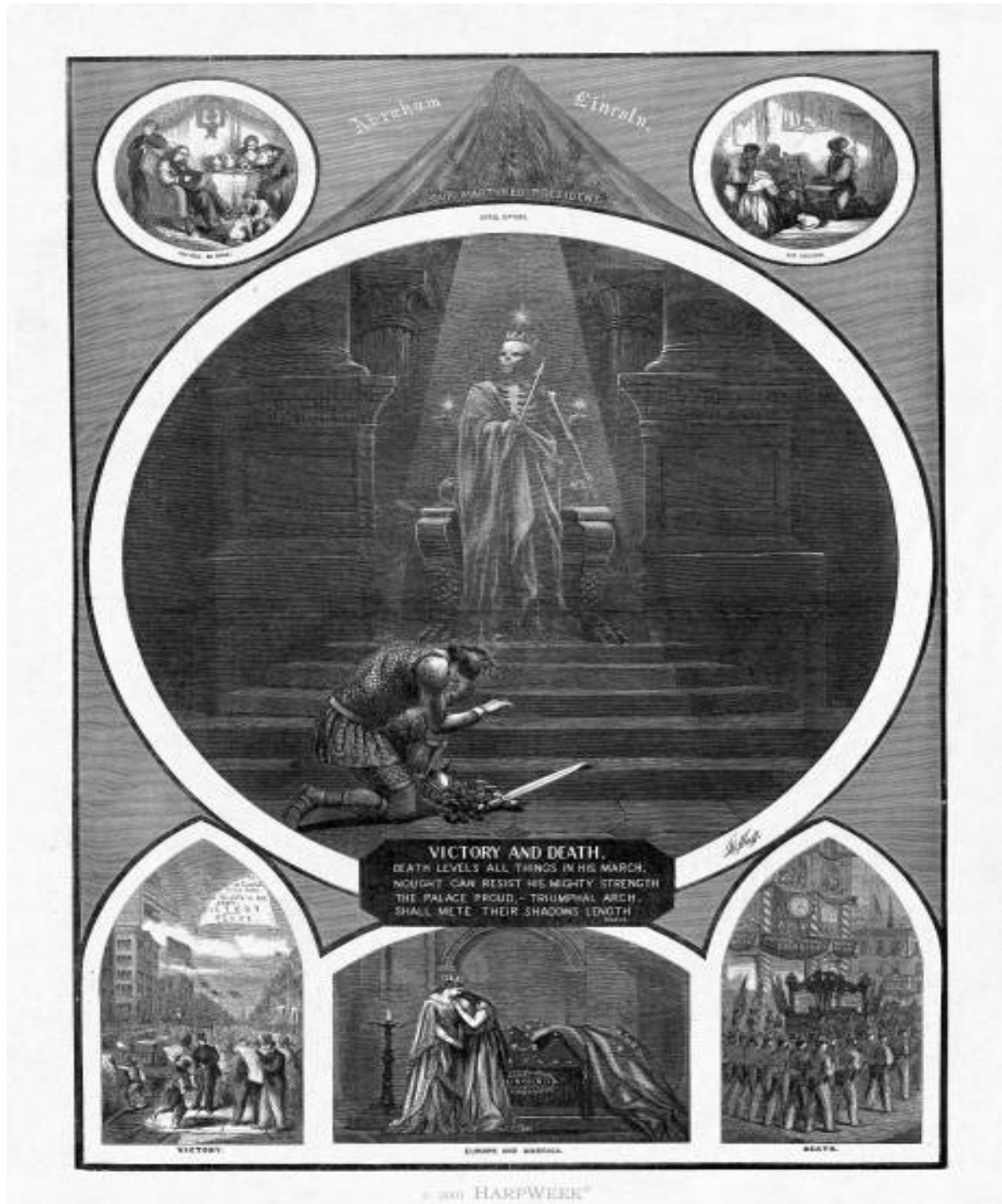


Overview: A vindictive Northern fantasy on the aftermath of the Civil War. This cartoon was published in 1865 in Cincinnati, Ohio and was designed by Burgoo Zac.

Answer the following questions.

1. List the objects or people you see in the cartoon.
2. Describe the action taking place in the cartoon.
3. Locate three words or phrases used by the cartoonist to identify objects or people in the cartoon.
4. Explain the message of the cartoon.

Title: **Victory and Death; Our Martyred President**



Overview: This bittersweet double-page cartoon by Thomas Nast mourns the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, which came just one week after the Union victory in the Civil War. The poem reminds viewers that even in victory "Death levels all things in his march."

Answer the following questions

5. List the objects or people you see in the cartoon.
6. Describe the action taking place in the cartoon.
7. Locate three words or phrases used by the cartoonist to identify objects or people within the cartoon.
8. Explain the message of the cartoon.

Final Analysis

9. Based on your findings, what special interest groups would agree/disagree with the message represented in these cartoons? Why?

### Cartoon sources and expanded summaries

#1

[http://www.abrahamlincolnsclassroom.org/Cartoon\\_Corner/index3.asp?ID=68&TypeID=10](http://www.abrahamlincolnsclassroom.org/Cartoon_Corner/index3.asp?ID=68&TypeID=10)

**Description:** A vindictive Northern fantasy on the aftermath of the Civil War. Confederate president Jefferson Davis, dressed in a hoopskirt or crinoline, hangs from a "Sour Apple Tree" at left, a Bowie knife in one hand and a torn flag in the other. (For Davis's costume, see "The Chas-ed "Old Lady" of the C.S.A.," no. 1865-11; for the "sour apple tree," see "John Brown Exhibiting His Hangman," no. 1865-16.) Beneath Davis is an open grave from which peers the devil. At right nooses are suspended over the heads of several "Confederate Mourners" (left to right): Gen. Robert E. Lee, Secretary of War John C. Breckinridge, Secretary of State and War Judah P. Benjamin, one of the Southern "Fire-eaters" and member of the Confederate Senate William Lowndes Yancey, Georgian Robert A. Toombs, and Louis T. Wigfall. Lincoln's assassin John Wilkes Booth (far right) rushes to join the group. On the ground lie copperheads (symbols of Peace Democrats), skulls, and broken artillery. The infamous Confederate prisons, Libby and Andersonville, can be seen in the distance. In the upper register the blindfolded figure of Justice, holding a sword and scales, is enthroned on a bank of clouds. At left Liberty sits beside an urn partially covered by the Union flag. An eagle is beside her. A grieving soldier and sailor attend the urn, while a slave man, his wife, and child look toward the far right, where the recently assassinated Abraham Lincoln is escorted heavenward by angels.

#2

[http://www.abrahamlincolnsclassroom.org/Cartoon\\_Corner/index3.asp?ID=69&TypeID=10](http://www.abrahamlincolnsclassroom.org/Cartoon_Corner/index3.asp?ID=69&TypeID=10)

**Description:** This bittersweet double-page cartoon by Thomas Nast mourns the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, which came just one week after the Union victory in the Civil War. The large image dominating the center of the cartoon shows Victory as a grieving soldier (wearing the mail of ancient times) who reverently kneels before the skeletal specter of Death. The poem reminds viewers that even in victory "Death levels all things in his march."

### Cartoon analysis questions

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/cartoon.html>